

CONGREGATION DORSHEI TZEDEK

An Affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465 617-965-0330
www.dorsheitzedek.org office@dorsheitzedek.org

Kislev-Tevet 5766

January 2006



Investing in the Future

Nancy Gertz, president@dorsheitzedek.org

At the December Members' Meeting—with about one quarter of CDT households represented—we enjoyed a rich evening exploring open questions about our visions of ourselves and CDT five years from now. This exercise emerged from the first phase of the Strategic Planning process, which involves information gathering: finding out what people care about most, and what their visions are for themselves and the congregation.

We extracted ten core themes, reflected in phrases, from our CDT Mission Statement, and asked those attending the meeting to select three phrases that they connected with most. The phrases (with the number of people who selected them following in brackets) were:

- Caring and inclusive community [31]
- Perpetuating our children's bond to our Jewish heritage [28]
- Seekers of meaningful spirituality [26]
- Social justice [26]
- Jewish practice [19]
- Education for ourselves [15]
- Participatory congregation in which all members take an active role [9]
- Diversity [8]
- Connection to the larger community outside of DT [4]
- Mitzvah as obligation [3]

Each participant then paired with someone else with at least two of the same selected phrases, discussing why they chose those themes, their CDT experiences related to the themes, and their vision for themselves--Jewishly and spiritually--and for CDT in 5 years. As the groups reported out to the full meeting, they showed significant diversity in the direction their discussions took. Some were action-oriented; others were issue and values-specific; yet others were more general in their thinking.

Many of you were not there to participate in this most enjoyable evening of connection and conversation. For

some, I know the words "strategic planning" can trigger a serious case of eye-rolling, to quote one member of the committee. But I want to assure you that this isn't like that. Ask yourself this:

- Is CDT a community you are committed to?
- Does CDT represent values that speak to you?
- Do you think CDT might be an important place for you sometime in the next five years?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, it's time to invest in helping us plan for the future. You could start by having a conversation like the ones described above with other members of CDT, even with another member in your household. Think about where you would like to be, in five years, in terms of your (and your household's) Jewish practice and life. How do you envision yourself? What is your ritual and/spiritual practice, if any? How can CDT support you? How can CDT help you on your own journey?

The info-gathering phase is still continuing. In early January the Strategic Planning committee will be sending out a short, web survey (totally painless) to the full membership with questions similar to those discussed by pairs at the Members' Meeting (those who attended the meeting are still encouraged to participate in the survey). There will be

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Board Meeting Notes.....	2
Members' Meeting Notes	3
Bat Mitzvah Celebration	4
Shabbat Programs	5
Chesed.....	6
Adult Education	7
Nadiv Lev, GBIO & Tikkun Olam	8
Calendar	9-10
School News.....	11
JRF News	12
Community Events	13-14
New Members, Board Member Directory.....	15

other steps along the way when we will need to return to the broad membership to seek further input. Please help by responding promptly.

Finally, a word about the planning we're doing for next year, now that our terrific Education Director, **Cindy Shulak-Rome**, will not be returning in the fall. As a parent, member, lay leader, and friend, I am eternally grateful for Cindy's boundless commitment to and investment in our school. As one sad member said, it will hard to find someone like Cindy. And so it is. We'll be looking for "someone" who is like that "someone"—hopefully very gifted, experienced, and committed to the education of our fabulous kids. We'll be ready to advertise this position very soon and hope to be interviewing candidates before the first thaw.

Todah rabah to everyone who is working so hard right now on all of our planning—the Office Administrator hire, the Education Director Search Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee: **Steve Siegel, Theresa St. John Siegel, Peter Katz** (Personnel Chair), **Sivan Nasoff, Laurie Gould** (Search Committee Chair), **Tessa Goldsmith, Jill Volk, Benita Danzing, Doug Hersh, Paul Hattis** (VP Strategic Planning), **Ellen Hemley, Sheree Galpert, Linette Liebling, Mark Farber, Jeff Kichen, Dan Rome, Rabbi Spitzer**, and all the members of the Board of Directors.

CDT Board Report

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

The Board met on November 20, 2005.

D'var: **Jeff Kichen** did a *d'var* on *parsha Chayei Sarah*. The *parsha* opens with the death of Sarah. Abraham, needing to find a burial place for her, negotiates with Ephron the Hittite to purchase the cave of Machpela. Speaking to Ephron, Abraham refers to himself as "*ger to-shav*", a "stranger and sojourner" among you. For Jews, especially during this time of year, it's easy to feel like strangers surrounded by a world not of our own making. Our Jewish community helps us overcome this sense of alienation, providing a center to return to, a place where we can feel whole and where we fully belong.

Membership Update-Inreach: The first CDT game night was a success, with about seventeen members attending. The Inreach committee is working on getting gift baskets to households who have newly joined this fall. Binder updates will be coming out soon. The committee has decided to re-

name itself the *Kehilla* (translation: Community) Committee.

Membership Update-Outreach: Thirteen households have recently joined CDT. Of them, nine said that their reason for joining was a personal connection with a current CDT member. The new member households are from Newton, Watertown, Cambridge, Arlington, Jamaica Plain, and Boston. The Outreach Committee is now doing phone follow-up with new member households to help introduce them to CDT and find out how they want to plug-in to the community. There'll be a new member Shabbat on December 3 and a new member orientation in January.

Finance Update: Our membership projection for the year is 178 households, but as of last week, we count only 158 paying families. The waters are muddied by uncertainty over those who have not formally said they were leaving CDT, but who also haven't yet paid dues. In the worst case, if no one else paid or joined this year, our deficit would be \$26,000. To encourage people to respond to dues requests in a reasonable amount of time, the Board approved the idea of imposing a \$50 administrative fee on late payers.

Chanukah Scheduling: Scheduling the Chanukah Party has been challenging this year. Usually it's on a Sunday during Chanukah, but this year the Chanukah begins and ends on Sundays which are also Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. The party was originally planned for Christmas, but out of concern about conflicting with Christmas celebrations, and especially how that would impact the inter-faith households in our membership, we're considering switching it to Monday, the 26, which most people have off. After checking on space availability, **Rabbi Spitzer** will consult with the Executive Committee and **Susannah Zisk**, the party organizer, and decide whether to make this change.

Strategic Planning Update/Members' Meeting: The Strategic Planning Committee has had its first two meetings since the last Board meeting. The December 4 Members' Meeting will be an important opportunity to solicit input from the membership. The committee is planning an activity for the Members' Meeting that will help members relate their personal interests to their vision of the future of our congregation.

Contacting Rabbi Toba: Rabbi Toba does not have regular office hours but is available to talk about any spiritual, religious, or personal issues that you might want to discuss. You can contact her at rabbi@dorsheitzedek.org or 617.965.0330 x2. If she is unavailable, there will be a rabbi on-call in case of emergency. The rabbi's voice-mail will have information on how to reach the on-call rabbi.

Members' Meeting Report

Peter Hess, phess@mit.edu

The Membership Meeting took place on December 4.

CDT president **Nancy Gertz** opened the meeting and introduced the meeting theme of strategic planning.

Chair of the Tikkun Olam Committee **Esther Kohn** reported on our participation in a GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) campaign for more affordable health care in Massachusetts. CDT was active GBIO's successful petition drive to put a health care initiative on the Massachusetts ballot in 2006 (See article on Page 8). This effort has given GBIO real leverage in the legislative debate, which has already produced a Senate bill with many provisions favored by GBIO. In addition to organizing CDT members to collect more than 1500 signatures for the petition campaign, the Tikkun Olam Committee is now raising money for GBIO by selling the GBIO Cookbook (\$10), which has several recipes from CDT members.

Jackie Fleischman, co-chair of the Chesed Committee said the committee is looking for member volunteers to help other members who are in need. Most frequent needs are for someone to cook a meal, to provide transportation, to run errands, or to visit those who are ill. If you weren't at the meeting and would like to add your name to the list of volunteers for these important gifts of the heart, please contact **Jackie** at 617.332.5433.

Rabbi Spitzer encouraged CDT members to participate in a vote to elect members to the World Zionist Congress. The WJC is the only democratically elected organization of world Jewry, and it annually disburses hundreds of millions of dollars raised by Jewish agencies (See article on Page 12). This year for the first time, there is a Reconstructionist slate of candidates for the WJC. It's easy to register to vote on the web at <https://www.esccvote.com/azm2005/>. The deadline for registration is February 15 and the election will be concluded on February 28. Those who register on-line will receive their ballots by email.

Rabbi Spitzer gave a *d'var* on *Vayeitzei*. Shortly after setting out on his journey to Haran, Ya'akov dreams of Angels going up and down a ladder to heaven and receives a message from Adonai. Adonai will protect him, make him the founder of a great people, and give this land to Ya'akov and his descendents. Ya'akov vows that if Adonai does protect and provide for him on his journey, Adonai will be his God. This *parsha* contains several lessons for strategic planning. One is that when beginning an en-

deavor, you need a plan, but expect surprises. You can't control for every eventuality. Another lesson lies in the contrast between the grandness of Ya'akov's dream and the practicality of his concerns. Be like Jacob: open to the big dream and also able to carefully think through your own needs. Individually it is for us to consider where we want to be, Jewishly and spiritually, in five years, what we need from this community to get there, and what we want to give back to the community in return.

We're at a very early point in the strategic planning process, in an information-gathering phase. This membership meeting was an important opportunity, though not the only one, for the Strategic Planning Committee to get input from the membership. This part of the process is not about the "hows" but about the "whats" and "what ifs", about visioning.

Sheree Galpert from the Strategic Planning Committee led an activity designed to help us gain a better understand our individual priorities. To begin, those present selected, out of ten broad themes drawn from the CDT Mission Statement, the three that had greatest meaning to them. (See President's Message for more details.)

After everyone had made their choices, people were asked to find a partner who had chosen at least two of the same statements, and to talk with their partner about those choices. Partners were to ask each other the following questions: Why did you choose the statements you did? What event, experience, or encounter at CDT has made you feel most engaged and connected? Where would you like to see yourself and CDT in five years? Next, partners formed small groups and spent twenty minutes sharing and expanding on their one-on-one discussions, making a list of the concerns and themes that emerged. Finally we re-gathered in the full group to recap as much of the discussion as we could in a compressed form.

The Strategic Planning Committee will go over the lists that were generated at this meeting and condense the data. They will write up what they found, and that report will be one of the underpinnings of the strategic planning process, along with information gathered from members who weren't present at the membership meeting and from non-members with whom we interact. Members will be kept informed about the progress of the strategic planning process through the newsletter.

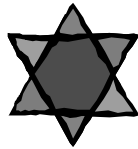
Bat Mitzvah of Xue Elana Rachel Rosenberg

Please join us on **January 21, 2006**, when **Xue** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Xue is a seventh grader at Bigelow Middle School. She enjoys soccer, math, and art, is studying Chinese, and especially loves reading and hanging out with her friends. For her *tikkun olam* project Xue helped with foster care at Waggin' Tail Veterinarian for kittens and cats who needed homes, and is expanding her volunteer work at other shelters. Xue and I are grateful for her teacher **Cindy**, for **Rabbi Spitzer**, for her tutor **Beth**, for **Nancy** and **Diane**, the congregants and culture of Dorshei Tzedek, and our friends in the CDT community. We look forward to sharing this special day with you, and hope you will join us following Shabbat services for Kid-dush and Klezmer music and dancing.

—Toni Rosenberg

Save the Date: Shabbat Unplugged

March 24 - 25



What was the last thing created, according to the Torah, and the first thing called "holy"? What recalls both the Creation of the universe and the exodus from Egypt? What's a great way to connect with family and friends, appreciate what we have, and take a rest from our usual overload? Stay tuned!!!

Chanukah Party Todah Rabah

Susannah Elkin Zisk

A huge toda raba to all those who made the chanuka party a rousing success: **Tessa Goldsmith** for taking charge of the all-important latkes, assisted by **Rachel Nemeth Cohen**; **Peter Hess** for helping to organize the kids' activities; **Sheree Galpert** for leading the older kids' games in her inimitable style; **Aviva Hess** for reading to the younger children; **Ruth Super** and her daughter **Elana** for managing the craft table; and **Diana Fisher-Gomberg** for help with the younger kids' activities. **Andrea** and **Dorea Vierling-Claassen** and **Steve Ansolabehere** were our primo decorators and **Eileen Morrison** oversaw the food, while **Laurie Gould**, **Corinne Lofchie**, **Noam Shore**, **Esther Kohn**, **Ilana Mainelli**, **Betsy Hinden**, **Karen Wasserman**, **Elaine Pollack**, **Elizabeth Ross**, and **Stephen Zisk** did a tremendous job of set-up and clean-up. Thanks also to those who pitched in and helped with clean-up despite not being officially on duty.

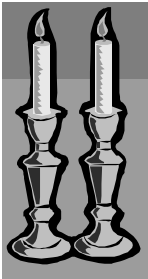
Thanks to **Rabbi Toba** for her ever-popular adult study session, and to all those who took time at this busy season to celebrate together.

Education Director Search

Laurie Gould, (lgould@vivaconsult.com)

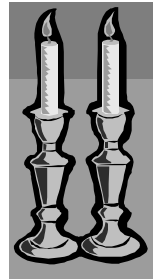
While we are duly humbled by the task of replacing our wonderful **Cindy Shulak-Rome** as CDT Education Director, our Search Committee is now beginning the process of searching for a suitable candidate to take on this role for our community. **Laurie Gould**, **Tessa Goldsmith**, **Benita Danzing**, **Jill Volk**, and **Doug Hersh** have been charged with leading the effort to find our new Ed Director. We are starting by surveying the market and working with **Cindy** and **Rabbi Spitzer** to define the job description. We plan to advertise the position in mid-January, and we hope to be interviewing candidates by March. We will be working closely with Rabbi Spitzer and with the Board to keep them informed and to ask for their guidance throughout the process. We are also discussing how best to solicit input from the membership about our shared priorities in filling this position. Stay tuned for a more formal participatory process early in 2006. In the meantime, we hope you will feel free to contact any member of the Search Committee to share your comments, concerns or ideas about filling this important position in our community.

High Holy Days Divrei Torah: The Divrei Torah that have been delivered at various High Holiday Services by Rabbi Toba Spitzer are available on the CDT website at www.dorsheitzedek.org/divrei. Also of interest, see the Divrei Torah Pages on the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation Web site, with more than 100 Reconstructionist Divrei Torah available for online reading (www.jrf.org).



Shabbat Programs

Unless noted otherwise, all Shabbat programs are held at the Dorshei Tzedek prayer space: 60 Highland Street in the Second Church of Newton, West Newton.



All-ages Erev Shabbat Services

January 6, February 3: potluck at 5:45 pm (Fellowship Hall) followed by service at 6:30 pm

Join us for a musical, all-ages service to welcome Shabbat the first Friday (usually, but see schedule) of each month. Before services, we'll enjoy a Shabbat meal together, beginning at 5:45 pm. Please bring a vegetarian/fish main dish or salad to share (enough for 10 - 12 people).

Erev Shabbat Services

January 20, February 10, March 24, April 21, May 12, June 9, 8 – 9 pm

Each month we welcome Shabbat with an evening of song, prayer, and reflection. Please join us!

Martin Luther King Jr., Birthday Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 14th, 9:45 am

Honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King at this special Shabbat morning service, featuring songs from the Civil Rights era and Torah study on a theme related to Dr. King's work for peace and justice.

Shabbat Shira

February 10 - 11

The Shabbat when we chant the "Song of the Sea" from the Torah is traditionally called "Shabbat Shira"—"Shabbat of Song." This year we'll be celebrating Shabbat Shira with musical contributions from our talented community. On Erev Shabbat Shira, **Friday, February 10:**

Potluck Dinner, 7 pm: Join us for a veggie/dairy/fish potluck dinner preceding services. Please bring a main course to share, enough to feed 12-15 people (drinks and desserts will be provided).

Musical Erev Shabbat Service, 8 pm: Join CDT member and klezmer musician extraordinaire Hankus Netsky, Rabbi Toba, and other CDT musicians for a lively, musical celebration of Shabbat. Bring your dancing shoes!

On **Shabbat Morning, Saturday, February 11, 9:45 am:** CDT Sings, our wonderful choir, will be singing and teaching us new songs as part of our Shabbat morning service. Don't miss it!

Tot Shabbat Services

January 28, February 11, March 11, April 1, May 13, 10:45 – 11:30 am

We will learn about Shabbat and the Jewish Holidays through song, stories, and crafts while building our community from the toddlers on up. Please join us! For more information call **Karen Wasserman** at 617.325.4716.

Junior Congregation

January 28, February 11, March 11, April 1, May 13, 10:45 – 11:30 am

Calling all students grades 3-7 for a wonderful Shabbat experience! Join us for Junior Congregation led by **Elana Rome**. This is a joyful, spirited, service with prayers, music, a Torah skit, and our very own Kiddush (kids only please!). We'll meet in Room 111 (1st floor across from the Child Care room). Questions? Call the CDT School at 617.965.5443.

Chesed

If you or someone in your household is ill or in need of support, please contact **Rabbi Spitzer** (617.965.0330) or **Annie Spanel** of the Chesed Committee (617.547.1533 or tuuurtle2@aol.com).

Have you recently had a *mazel tov* moment? Let us know! Please notify the Newsletter Committee of life cycle events, significant accomplishments, or other moments you would like to share with the Dorshei Tzedek community. E-mail your announcement to dtnews@yahoo.com.

For congregants experiencing financial difficulties, help is available through the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is administered solely by the rabbi and is completely confidential. If you are in need of assistance, please call **Rabbi Spitzer** at 617.965.0330 x2.

Refuah Sh'lemah

The community of Congregation Dorshei Tzedek sends blessings and prayers for healing, *refuah sh'lemah*, to **Zachary Carson**. May healing and comfort come to you and to those who care for you.

Zichrono Livracha

January 28, which is also the 28th of Tevet, is the fifth *yahrzeit* of CDT member **Marty Bresnick**, father of **Anna Bresnick** and former husband of **Elaine Bresnick**. May his memory be for a blessing. We will be remembering Marty at Shabbat morning services on January 28.

Condolences



To Michael Jablon, on the death of his mother, Dorothy Jablon. May her memory be for a blessing.

Mazel Tov

To **Nathaniel Kahn-Leavitt** and his parents (**Laurie and Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt**) on becoming bar mitzvah! *Yasher koach!*

To **Wendy Gedanken** and **Joa Branco** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Leah Zaliea**, to their daughter, **Tali**, and her partner, **Sequoia McDowell**! Tali was among the first generation of CDT *b'nei mitzvah*, and the first of that group to have a baby. A milestone all around! We're looking forward to a naming at Dorshei Tzedek in the hopefully not too distant future.

To **Idit Klein**, Executive Producer of *Hineini*, the movie about the creation of a Gay-Straight Alliance at Gann Academy (New Jewish High School), and to **Gina Fried** who appears in the film. *Yasher koach!*

To all of the CDT members who participated in the GBIO signature campaign for the affordable and accessible healthcare—CDT members collected over 1,500 signatures as part of reaching the collective goal of 40,000 signatures. Special kudos to **Esther Kohn** for her lead role in organizing the CDT effort, and to **Paul Hattis** for his part in the GBIO Strategy Team that has been spearheading this effort. Other CDT participants included:

*Ilana Mainelli
*Stacey Chacker
*Esther Kohn
*Angela Vierling-Claassen
*Dorea Vierling-Claassen
Paul Hattis
Emily Sper
Dorie Fried
Ora Gladstone
Stephen Zisk
Marvin Brotman
Allison Andrews
Susannah Zisk
Clifford Goldsmith
Elaine Landes
Lilly Platt
Diana Fisher-Gomberg
Meryl Epstein
Jeff Sachs
Patricia Nuzzola
Doug Hersh
Tim Rosa
Daniel Krasa

Ellie Goldberg
Elizabeth Ross
Hope Kellman
Alissa Leonard
Lauren Gibbs
Rick Glassman
Audra Karp
Deb Albenberg
Becca Gutman
Idit Klein
Liz Carver
Bryn Austin
Sheree Galpert
Alex Sugarman-Brozan
Jody Sugarman-Brozan
Kelli Kirshtein
Richard Cohen
Louise Enoch
Alan Epstein
Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt
Erica Streit-Kaplan
Steve Robins
*precinct captains

Todah Rabah

To **Steffi Karp**, for the donation of the GBIO cookbook to the Dorshei Tzedek library.

Kiddush Todah Rabah

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek would like to thank the following members who sponsored Kiddush during the month of November 2005:

Bryn Austin
Beth Brooks &
Hankus Netsky
David Cash
Amy Diamond
Karen & Reinhard Engels
Diane Fisher-Gomberg

Debbie Hemley &
Jonathan Weisberg
Josh Herzig-Marx
Judy & Chayim Herzig-Marx
Lissy Medvedow &
Cliff Cohen
Dan Rome
Cheryl & Jeff Sacks

Adult Education

Shabbat Morning Study with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Saturday mornings at 8:45 am, 60 Highland Street
January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 13*

Join Rabbi Spitzer for exploration of the weekly Torah portion at this once-a-month study opportunity before Shabbat morning services. No text study experience necessary! Bring your own coffee/tea and a few good questions.

Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer

*Wednesdays, noon – 1:00 pm
Thursdays mornings, 8 – 9 am*

Meditation following Thursday morning class, 9:05-9:45 am

NO CLASS: January 25-26, February 1-2

60 Highland Street

This is an ongoing class, and you're welcome to come any time! Choose the time that works the best for you. We are continuing our exploration of Jewish texts and practices, with an eye towards cultivating greater mindfulness, wisdom, clarity, and meaning in our daily lives. Upcoming topics include: prayer; *tzedakah* and mindful use of money; Shabbat; positive speech; the cultivation of ethical and moral qualities. The class is intended for folks at any level of Jewish observance/non-observance.

Classes on Thursday are followed by a period of silent meditation, with instruction. You are welcome to come just for the meditation session.

Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat

*Monday evenings: January 23, 30 and February 6
at 7:30 pm*

Second Church, Class room 111

Cost: members free, non-members \$15 per session, \$36 for all three

Session 1 – Civil Rights in Stressful Times

Session 2 – Disability and Inclusion

Session 3 – Debate and Dissent in Polite Society

The course will entail close reading of selected Talmudic passages dealing with ethical questions that resonate with us today. The work will have a dual purpose. We will delve deeply into the specific social and moral issues, and at the same time, gain familiarity with the complex mechanics of Talmudic discussion. The first session will look at the way in which rabbinic legislation attempted to balance the concerns for individual rights and communal safety. The second will examine Talmudic attitudes toward the disabled, specifically as regards their performance of sacred and liturgical functions. During the final class, we will focus on the "rules of engagement" in the Rabbinic Academy. How can we debate important matters with fierce conviction while avoiding personal attack? What are the stakes in maintaining the integrity of the discourse?

David Bernat is Assistant Professor of Religion and Jewish studies at Wellesley College. His doctorate is from Brandeis University, and his areas of teaching and research are Hebrew Bible and ancient Judaism. Prof. Bernat has been a member of the Meah faculty for seven years and gave a class on Psalms at CDT last year.

In Appreciation

The congregation would like to express its appreciation to **Diane Dillon**, our administrator, who ably staffed our office for the past two and half years, and who has moved on to another position. Diane did an enormous amount to organize our office systems and to support not only the rabbi and our school, but also the many volunteers who have relied on her help. We wish Diane all the best in her new job.

שלום

Nadiv Lev

We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions

General Fund

(including donations to the Nadiv Lev campaign)

Ellie Goldberg

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel David Kahn-Leavitt

Susannah & Steve Zisk

In honor of Lily Strassberg's Bat Mitzvah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jennifer Levine & Matthew Fried

With thanks and gratitude for the wonderful job Rabbi Spitzer did in preparing us for our marriage and guiding us through our wedding ceremony.

There are many ways to financially support Congregation Dorshei Tzedek: through contributions to the General Fund, or to targeted funds such as the School or the Holy Book Funds. Donations can also be made to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. This fund is not part of the congregation's operating expenses and is administered solely by the rabbi. Monies in this fund are used for tzedakah in the greater community, for special needs of the congregation (e.g., to buy books or help pay for an adult education program), and, most importantly, to help out congregants in need. These additional contributions should also be made out to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, but marked as intended for the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

GBIO and Tikkun Olam

Lisa Schneier, lisa.schneier@umb.edu

The GBIO healthcare reform effort has been heartening on a number of levels. One is the nature and composition of GBIO – it would be hard not to feel inspired while participating in a community-based effort with thousands of people of different races and cultures, people who come from all over the greater Boston area, are diverse in their religious commitments, and who nonetheless share a commitment to effecting significant change in the wider community that we share. I've also been heartened by the fact that in this effort I am working through my membership and commitment to Dorshei Tzedek. In the past, my political work was often not tied to a Jewish community, though I think that my orientation toward this work comes very much from my Jewish identity. So to have that overt connection feels important to me as an expansion of my current and potential identity as a Jew.

Another way in which this has been a heartening effort is how successful it's been! We can already see significant effects. GBIO pledged 40,000 signatures and collected 42,000 of the 112,000 delivered by MassACT, the umbrella organization with which GBIO is working on this initiative. More than 1,500 of these were collected by Dorshei Tzedek members. This quantity of signatures has had and will continue to have a direct effect for two reasons. First, the public support for increased access to health care demonstrated by the signature campaign caused significant revisions to the bill introduced by the House. Second, there are enough signatures to go forward with a ballot initiative if a bill is not passed that contains the major provisions that MassACT is supporting.

There were two significant GBIO events in early December that illustrated the success of the effort thus far. One was a GBIO meeting on December 1 to celebrate the signature campaign. **Salvatore DiMasi**, the Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, came to the meeting and, according to Dorshei Tzedek Tikkun Olam Committee Chair **Esther Kohn**, was "visibly moved" by the energy and commitment that he felt there. He spoke to the GBIO membership regarding the health care bill that the House is supporting: "Your commitment to this cause convinced my members (members of the House) and me that this is the right thing to do... You have inspired me... Massachusetts has been a leader in this country. We can set an example today. It (the bill) is new, innovative, bold, and it's the right thing to do."

One point of contention had been the "employer mandate" that GBIO has advocated for—the aspect of the bill that mandates employers to be assessed 5-7% of their payroll if they do not provide health care to their workers. DiMasi said that he would pledge to continue support of the employer mandate.

The second event was the December 7 rally at the State House when the 112,000 signatures were turned in to be certified. The purpose of the rally was to show public support for an extensive bill offering increased access to health care.

A quote from **Esther Kohn** captures the inspiration of this campaign thus far: "I have to echo our shouts at the December 1 GBIO celebration: HALLELUJAH, WE DID IT!! It was worth standing in the rain and cold on those Sunday afternoons to collect all those signatures. I am amazed that the ballot initiative actually made a huge impact on our state legislators. Many Representatives and Senators are taking political risks to do the right thing. The bill that emerges could dramatically improve the lives of Massachusetts citizens who have not had adequate, affordable health care. MAZEL TOV!"



January Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Tue Jan 3		<i>CLASSES RESUME</i>	
Wed Jan 4	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 5	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 5	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Chanting with Nicky Silver	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 13)
Fri Jan 6	5:30 pm - 8 pm	Potluck Dinner Erev Shabbat Family Service to follow	Rochelle Weichman, JoAnn Share, William Shorr (see page 5)
Sat Jan 7	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Sat Jan 7	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Laura Katz, Naomi Botkin & Joshua Gordon, Emily Saltz
Sat Jan 7	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Jan 8	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Gimmel Family Ed	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Jan 8	7 pm - 9 pm	Elder Care Support Group	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 13)
Mon Jan 9	7:30 pm - 9 pm	Chanting with Nicky Silver	60 Highland St.: Library (see page 13)
Wed Jan 11	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 12	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Sat Jan 14		<i>NO SCHOOL / MLK WEEKEND</i>	
Sat Jan 14	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Jodi & Alex Sugerman-Brozan, Jennifer Hochschild & Tony Broh
Wed Jan 18	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 19	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Fri Jan 20	8 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Adult Service	Amy Gordon, Mark Bronstein (see page 5)
Sat Jan 21	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Xue Rosenberg	Ruth Paris & Rob Saper, Ilene Spiro & Ira Schor, Wendy & Charles Frankston, Eileen Morrison & Michael Jablon; <i>Sanctuary Cleanup:</i> Barbara & Gerry Zolit, Laya Steinberg & Bruce Miller
Sat Jan 21	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	<i>FUSN</i>
Sat Jan 21	7 pm	New Member Orientation	<i>Members-Only Event, 60 Highland St: Sanctuary</i>
Sun Jan 22	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #4	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Jan 22	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Zayin Family Ed Program	<i>FUSN: Headstart Room</i>
Sun Jan 22	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Mon Jan 23	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Ed: Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 7)
Wed Jan 25	12 pm - 1 pm	No Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Thu Jan 26	8 am - 9 am	No Class with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	60 Highland St: Library (see page 7)
Sat Jan 28	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Susan Manheim & Andrew Schiff, Lisa Samelson, Meryl Epstein <i>Rabbi Toba off this Shabbat</i>
Sat Jan 28	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	<i>FUSN</i>
Sat Jan 28	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	60 Highland St: Room 112 (see page 5)
Sat Jan 28	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	60 Highland St., Room 111 (see page 5)
Sat Jan 28	6 pm	Potluck Dinners	<i>Members-Only Event at members' homes</i>
Sun Jan 29	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Hay Family Ed	<i>FUSN</i>
Mon Jan 30	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Adult Ed: Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat	60 Highland St: Room 111 (see page 7)

Events and services are held at The Second Church, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, unless otherwise noted. During Rabbi Toba's weekends off, members of the congregation will lead services. Free childcare is available during Shabbat morning services in the large classroom near the office on the first floor.

No Fragrances, Please: So that Dorshei Tzedek services and events are accessible to all of our members and guests, we ask that people refrain from wearing fragrances (perfume, scented oils, cologne, etc.) to all Dorshei Tzedek events. While pleasant to some, these fragrances can cause illness to those who are chemically sensitive. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.



February Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Kiddush / Notes
Wed Feb 1	6 pm - 8 pm	No'ar Tzedek Teen Program	<i>FUSN</i>
Fri Feb 3	5:45 pm - 8 pm	Potluck and Erev Shabbat Family Service	Allyson Cherkasky, Annie Weiss (<i>see page 3</i>)
Sat Feb 4	8:45 am - 9:40 am	Shabbat Morning Torah Study	(<i>see page 7</i>)
Sat Feb 4	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Rachel Cohen, Richard Cohen. Gertrude Nemeth Laura Katz
Sat Feb 4	10 am - 12 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Feb 5	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Dalet Family Ed	<i>FUSN</i>
Mon Feb 6	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Contemporary Ethics from a Talmudic Perspective with Prof. David Bernat	(<i>see page 7</i>)
Wed Feb 8	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	(<i>see page 7</i>)
Thu Feb 9	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	(<i>see page 7</i>)
Fri Feb 10	7 pm - 9:30 pm	Erev Shira Shabbat Potluck and Musical Service	Sue Lanser, Jo Radner, Rebecca Gutman (<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Feb 11	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service	Judy Hersh, Tim Rosa, Lisa Goodman, Bill Weinreb
Sat Feb 11	10:45 am - 11:30 am	Tot Shabbat	(<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Feb 11	10:45 am - 12 pm	Junior Congregation	(<i>see page 5</i>)
Sat Feb 11	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Aleph & Kitah Bet Classes: Youth Service	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Feb 12	2 pm - 4 pm	Gan Family Program #5	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Feb 12	2 pm - 4 pm	Kitah Vav Family Ed Program	<i>FUSN</i>
Sun Feb 12	4 pm - 7 pm	Tu B'shvat	<i>FUSN</i> : Idit Klein, Lauren Gibbs, Wendy Gedanken, Laurie & Jonathan Kahn-Leavitt
Sun Feb 12	7 pm - 9 pm	Elder Care Support Group	60 Highland St: Library (<i>see page 13</i>)
Wed Feb 15	12 pm - 1 pm	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	
Wed Feb 15	6 pm - 8 pm	No'ar Tzedek Teen Program	<i>FUSN</i>
Thu Feb 16	8 am - 9 am	Judaism and Practice with Rabbi Toba Spitzer	
Sat Feb 18		NO SCHOOL THRU 2/25/2006 - FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION WEEK	
Sat Feb 18	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service (<i>Rabbi Off</i>)	Matilda Bruckner, Edward Bruckner, Caryn-Amy King, Jeffrey Schindler
Sat Feb 18	6 pm	CDT Film Club: Walk on Water	<i>Members-Only Event / 6 pm light meal / 7 pm film (see page 13)</i>
Sat Feb 25	9:45 am - 12 pm	Shabbat Morning Service Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Pearce-Probst	Jane Schwartz & Tracy Rogers, Ora Grodsky & Jonathan Rosenthal, Sheree Galpert <i>Sanctuary Cleanup</i> : Rob & Ricky Greenly, Howard Kaufman
Sun Feb 26	7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Board Meeting	<i>Members-Only Event</i>
Tue Feb 28		CLASSES RESUME	

School News

Everything Old is New Again

*Rebekah Ralen, Associate Education Director,
agm123@verizon.net*

When I first met Cindy, I liked her immediately. Smart, intuitive, sensitive, and all with great humor. What's not to like?

A few months into the school year she told me we would be doing a *maccabiah* for Chanukah. This afternoon of very silly games was a tradition. So I asked what had been done in the past, thinking that she would want new ideas. However, she told me that identical games had been played every year for a long time and that the students looked forward to them. What??? Of course, she was right. The students began talking about the specific games, races etc that they were anticipating many weeks in advance of the day.

Each year we read the same stories in the Torah over and over. Because there is often a comfort level in knowing what to expect, be it a game or a story, there is also the reality that we are one year older and approach the games with more skill and approach the stories with a different way of looking at them given the things we have experienced in the past year.

As educators we live with this experience daily. Though we have a core curriculum, it sometimes needs to be tweaked to adjust to the makeup of the class. We are, therefore, often in the classrooms to observe and evaluate how the material is being taught and received. We also appreciate input from parents and students as to what parts are working well and what might need some adjustment. Often, the conversations with the students take place during Community Time, the all-school snack-and-hang-out time before classes. (This is one of my favorite times, as it is when the kids teach me about what books, movies, and music are popular.)

As we grow year by year, it is important to keep rituals and traditions, be they games or holiday celebrations or Torah, in our lives; these are excellent anchors that connect us as a community.

Passport to Israel Enrollment Deadline

Elaine Landes (erose116@yahoo.com)

For families of 3rd and 7th graders, enrollment forms for new registrants for the Passport to Israel program are due by January 6. If you missed Back to School Night on Oct.

27, forms can be obtained from the school office, or contact **Elaine Landes** at 617.969.7703 evenings, for enrollment forms and/or information.

Passport to Israel is a savings program to fund peer-group travel opportunities for 10th-12th graders. Families of 3rd or 7th graders contribute \$200 or \$400, respectively, on an annual basis until their child reaches 10th grade. Combined Jewish Philanthropies, which supports the program, contributes an additional \$700 per child to pay for a trip to Israel. For more details, or any questions, please call **Elaine Landes**, the CDT coordinator for Passport to Israel.

For families already enrolled, billing statements for your 2006 contribution will be sent out in January - please respond promptly, as our congregation's payments to the program must be forwarded to CJP by February 1. *Todah Rabah!*

New at Dorshei Tzedek Religious School: No'ar Tzedek – Teen Programming!

Beginning in January we are pleased to introduce a series of three mini-courses geared for our teens in grades 8-11. This winter we offer the following programs:

"What Would Moses Eat?" taught by Gina Fried – Gina will explore the important role of food in Judaism and in our lives.

"Masking the Story" – a mask making workshop in preparation for Purim – taught by Eric Bornstein

"Strange Stories of the Rabbis" taught by Rabbi Toba – Rabbi Toba will explore some interesting Talmudic stories and see what they have to teach us about friendship, relationships, etc.

Each mini-course will be two or three sessions and will include a pizza supper. This is a great way for teens to engage in continued Jewish learning in a fun, interactive way. Come engage in some learning, see old friends and make new friends! Students can register for one, two or all three mini-courses.

For more information, or for a registration form, check our web site www.dorsheitzedek.org. or contact Cindy Shulak-Rome at school@dorsheitzedek.org or 617 9656-5443

Camp JRF – A Great Summer Opportunity!

Camp JRF is now accepting applications for the coming summer. With a beautiful new campsite within driving distance, a vibrant and well-rounded program and an opportunity to live and learn Jewish Reconstructionist values

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

over the course of a few weeks, this could be a transformative experience for your son or daughter.

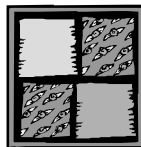
Six of our young members are already planning to attend—both in staff and camper roles and we hope to have an even larger group there to represent Dorshei Tzedek.

The other good news is that both Dorshei Tzedek and Camp JRF have scholarship funds available, so that all students interested in going to camp can have this opportunity. For more information about scholarship funding, contact Rabbi Toba or Cindy Shulak-Rome, Education Director.

A few weeks ago, we sent letters about camp, along with application forms and a wonderful Camp CD—"The Music of Camp JRF" to all families with camp age children. If you did not receive a CD and would like one, please contact our office.

"Inspirational Jewish Women" Faith Quilt

Steffi Aronson Karp, shula@comcast.net



Do you have some free time in the afternoon? Why not visit the "Inspirational Jewish Women" faith quilt hanging at the Brandeis Women Studies Research Center? Over 70 Greater Boston women participated in workshops led by Waban quilter and CDT member **Steffi Aronson Karp**, in which they created fabric collage squares, which were then completed, quilted, and turned into an artistic whole. The entire work measures 14 feet long by 6 feet high. Beside the fabric squares are cards describing the inspirations for each piece.

This installation hangs in the Hadassah Brandeis Institute at 515 South Street, Waltham ((across from the Roberts train station), and is available for viewing weekdays, during office hours. Workshop participants came from all over Eastern Massachusetts, including: supporters of Mayyim Hayyim—the community mikveh, Temple Beth Zion (Brookline), Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, Hadassah Brandeis Institute, Temple Beth Elohim (Wellesley), Shir Tikveh (Wayland), Amit Women (Newton), and the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework.

This faith quilt will hang at Brandeis' Women Studies Research Center until April 1, when it will be part of the larger 60-piece interfaith quilt exhibit at the Boston Center for the Arts, and other places in Massachusetts. After that exhibit, the quilt will reside at Mayyim Hayyim. For more information on the Faith Quilts concept, see www.faithquilts.org or email moreinfo@faithquilts.org.



News from JRF World Zionist Congress Elections

*November 15, 2005 –
February 28, 2006*

For the first time ever, the Reconstructionist movement is running a slate of candidates for the World Zionist Congress, which will meet in June 2006. The WZC is a democratic, international Jewish gathering that influences hundreds of millions of dollars in funding in Israel as well as policy decisions of the Jewish Agency. Due to its quasi-governmental status, the WZC affects everything from funding for settlements in the occupied territories to support for non-Orthodox Jewish movements in Israel. To find out more about the WZC, go to www.azm.org. Now we as Reconstructionists can have a collective voice for peace, democracy and pluralism in Israel, by electing Reconstructionist delegates to the WZC. For more information about the Reconstructionist platform and slate of candidates, go to www.jrf.org. Anyone who wants to participate in the election must register by February 15, 2006 (voter registration costs \$7). Once you have registered, you can vote in the election. Go to www.azm.org for more information on how to register and vote.

JRF Welcomes Seattle Congregation

JRF welcomes a new affiliate, Kadima Congregation in Seattle, WA, www.kadima.org, a progressive 60 household community with its own Women's Torah project and Middle East Summer Peace Camp. We are delighted to partner with such a dynamic community and add them to the growing network of Northwest U.S. JRF congregations (along with Eugene, Salem, Portland and Olympia). Kadima is the 106th congregation to join the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation.

CDT Community Events

Two Evenings of Chanting

Nicky Silver (nickysilver@comcast.net)

Thursday, January 5 and Monday, January 9

7:30 – 9 pm, 60 Highland Street, Library

What is it about chant that speaks to us at such a deep level? Why has chanting found its way into so many cultures and religions around the world both ancient and modern? Though it takes many forms, chant basically combines words (or syllables - like OM), music and rhythm to form a sacred phrase which is repeated over and over again. Chanting becomes a form of vocal meditation, or as my teacher Rabbi Shefa Gold says: "A way of transforming words into doorways, entrances into expanded states of consciousness." Through chanting we are able to focus the mind, and shift our consciousness from the outside world to the inside world of the chant, and then further inside to our spiritual core. There is a huge difference between chanting and ordinary singing. It is primarily a meditative process and a vehicle toward an inward focus. Chanting incorporates breath, heart, spirit, intention and voice together, much like a yoga practice joins physical postures with our deeper core. I have been studying a meditative practice using Hebrew chants for several years and am currently in a chant leadership training program with Rabbi Shefa Gold. These introductory sessions can be attended separately or together. NO knowledge of Hebrew is necessary and singing ability is unimportant. Please call me if you have any questions at 617.327.1999.

Support Group for Members with Elderly Parents

*Louise Enoch (lpenoch@rcn.com)
and Ruth Paris (rparis@bu.edu)*

Sunday, January 8, 7 – 9 pm

in the Second Church Library, 60 Highland Avenue

Sunday, February 12, 7 – 9 pm

in the Second Church Parlor, 60 Highland Avenue

Any member with concerns about an elderly parent is invited to come to the CDT Support Group which will be meeting for the second time on Sunday, January 8 from 7-9 pm in the library of the Second Church on Highland Ave. This group offers the opportunity to share with others who are in a similar place, dealing with the challenges of an aged parent or parents. Support for complex feelings, as

well as information about practical resources can be available. We are still defining our needs and our direction and would welcome your participation and input. The February meeting will take place on Sunday evening, February 12, also from 7-9 pm in the parlor of the Second Church. If you have any questions about this group, please contact Louise Enoch or Ruth Paris.

Dorshei Tzedek Film Club

*Stan Fleischman (617.332.5433, stanf@rcn.com) and
Emily Sper (617.779.9403, esper@blueirisdesign.com)*

Saturday January 21:

*6 pm light meal. 7 pm film: **Yellow Asphalt***

Please join us on Saturday January 21 at 7 pm for a showing of the film **Yellow Asphalt**. We will provide an optional light vegetarian supper at 6 pm for those who would like to schmooze a bit before seeing the film. Please plan to stay after the film for a discussion.

Film summary: Israeli filmmaker Danny Vereté trains his lenses on the ancient tribe of the Bedouins, who are forced to confront the march of time and modernity through three vignettes. First, a young Bedouin is mowed down in the middle of the desert on a lonely road. Next, a Bedouin man and his German wife find difficulty navigating their unusual partnership. And last, a Bedouin woman takes up, against all odds, with her Israeli boss. 87 min. Hebrew, Arabic.

The film location will be announced shortly. If you would like to host a film, let us know your preferred date.



Upcoming films

Saturday Feb. 18: 6 pm light meal. 7 pm film **"Walk on Water"** 103 min. English, German, Hebrew, Italian, Turkish, Arabic

Saturday Mar. 18: 6 pm light meal. 7 pm film **"God is Great, I'm Not"** 100 min. French, English, Hebrew

Apr. date and time TBD. **"Waiting for the Messiah"** 97 min. Spanish, Yiddish

May date and time TBD. **"Time of Favor"** 102 min. Hebrew

June date and time TBD. **"The Komediand"** 85 min. Hebrew, Yiddish, English

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Although it is not necessary to contact us before attending any of these films, it would be useful to know how many plan to have soup and salad before the film. We would also be interested in knowing your level of interest to the film series in general. We will send out announcements with descriptions of the films about one week before each showing.

Dorshei Tzedek Zikaron (Remembrance) Project Starting

Lauren Gibbs (617.441.8892, laurenk.gibbs@worldnet.att.net) and Ellie Goldberg (617.965.9637, erg_hk@juno.com)

Were you moved by the *Eleh Ezkareh* service on Yom Kippur? Would you like to help explore Jewish traditions and rituals for remembrance, and develop resources and recommendations for supporting the needs of Dorshei Tzedek members? **Lauren Gibbs** and **Ellie Goldberg**, Zikaron co-chairs, will be holding a series of sessions to do just that. Please let us know if you are interested in participating.

Member Pot-Luck Night

Angela Vierling-Claassen (angelavc@math.harvard.edu) and Ami Gordon (amisgordon@comcast.net)

Saturday, January 28

All members, old and new, are invited to either host or to be guests at a Saturday evening meal in another member's home. The potluck, organized by the newly-renamed *Kehilla* committee (formerly Membership Inreach), will be held on Saturday, January 28. These potlucks have been very popular in the past, with people feeling that the intimate setting helps them to make connections with other members. The more people that participate, the better matches we can make, so contact **Ami Gordon** at 617.630.1717 or amisgordon@comcast.net to sign up by January 15. Let her know who will be attending, any allergies or food preferences, if you prefer an adult or a mixed (adult and children's) group, and if you are willing to host. Hosts should specify how many people they have room for. Ami will contact the hosts by January 20, and the hosts will contact their guests to arrange the details.

Rosh Chodesh Shevat

The celebration of the new moon is a day historically associated with women's renewal and celebration. In recent decades, Rosh Chodesh has become an occasion for

Jewish women to gather for learning, ritual, and spiritual exploration, and to mark life passages.

Dorshei Tzedek women are invited celebrate the new moon of Shevat on Monday, January 30th with an evening of personal reflection, singing and conversation.

Please join us from 7:30 to 9 pm at the home of Erica Streit-Kaplan, 141 Spruce Street, Apt. 1 in Watertown. To RSVP or for questions contact Erica at ELStreit@yahoo.com or 617-393-0216. Newcomers welcome!

New Member Orientation

Carla Naumburg, outreach@dorsheitzedek.org

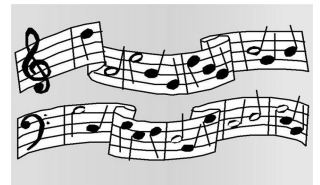
*Saturday, January 21, 7 pm
60 Highland Street Sanctuary*

This is an excellent opportunity for new members to meet other members and learn more about the opportunities at CDT. This orientation will include a short havdallah service led by Rabbi Spitzer, as well as tasty desserts. We will also be reviewing how to do kiddush set-up and clean-up, and answering any questions you might have. So, if you are a new member, or an older member who would like a refresher, please join us. RSVP to **Carla Naumburg** at outreach@dorsheitzedek.org, or by calling 617.558.1323. Childcare is available upon request.

CDT Sings

Angela Vierling-Claassen (angelavc@math.harvard.edu) and Elaine Bresnick (ebresnick@comcast.net)

Join CDT Sings on the second Sunday of every month as we learn new songs and sing old favorites. Contact one of us at the email addresses above if you'd like to sing with us. We will also be singing at *Shabbat Shira* on February 11, so please join us!



Shabbat Tapes Available

Sung by Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Dorshei Tzedek has available audio tapes of: (1) the Friday evening Family Service and (2) our regular Shabbat morning service. To order either or both tapes, please send payment of \$6/tape (includes shipping) to Congregation Dorshei Tzedek, 60 Highland Street, West Newton, MA 02465. Don't miss the online music sample available at www.dorsheitzedek.org/rabbi-music.htm.

New CDT Members

Angela Vierling-Claasen, angelavc@math.harvard.edu and
Diana Fisher-Gomberg, gomberg@comcast.net

Welcome to our newest members: **Robert Warren** and
Meg Wilcox, Barbara Huggins, and Emily and David Shumsky!

Al and **Phyllis Glazerman** have been Newton residents for 38 years. They have 3 children. **Susan**, the eldest, leads a religious life in Zefat, Israel, where she is raising 10 children with her husband, a rabbi who grew up in Philadelphia. Their son, **Michael**, lives in Newton and has a daughter, 6. Their daughter, **Stephanie Rosenheim**, lives in Davis, CA, with her husband, a professor at UC Davis and their three children. Last year she started a Jewish nursery school in her house, which she is continuing this year. The family will spend next year on Sabbatical in Rehoveth, Israel.

Al is a lawyer who has retired and now works as a labor/employment consultant. He has been on the board of Roxbury Youthworks a non-profit which helps teen-agers at risk. Phyllis has been a high school English teacher, and a teacher of ESL. For the last 13 years, she has been a piano technician and consultant. She plays tennis competitively and she plays the piano in a trio.

After 30 years in a large, conservative congregation, they attended a Reconstructionist service in NY for a Bat Mitzvah and liked it so much they decided to explore it at home. Since joining CDT this fall, they liked everything they have seen and heard: Reconstructionism, the rabbi, the members and a great environment for observance and learning.



Dorshei Tzedek Board Members

For the year 5766

Executive Committee

President: Nancy Gertz
Vice President Development: Steve Siegel
Vice President Strategic Planning: Paul Hattis
Vice President Membership: Andrew Schiff
Vice President Finance: Sivan Nasoff
Secretary: Peter Hess
Rabbi: Toba Spitzer

Board

Finance Secretary: Jiff Kichen
Ritual: Marc Steinberg and Kelli Kirshtein
Space: Stuart Snyder
Tikkun Olam: Esther Kohn
Membership Outreach: Carla Naumburg
Kehillah: Angela Vierling, Diana Fisher Gomberg
Newsletter: Dan Halbert
Children's Education: Howard Lurie, Janet Boguslaw
Nadiv Lev: [unfilled]
Holiday Programming: [unfilled]
Board Member at Large: [unfilled]

Off-Board

End of Life: Nicky Silver
Rabbinic Liaison: Ora Gladstone
Personnel: Peter Katz
Website: Stan Fleischman
High Holy Days: Theresa St. John-Siegel
Adult Education: Matilda Bruckner
Publicity: Josh Herzig-Marx
Chesed: Annie Spanel, Jackie Fleischman

<http://www.dorsheitzedek.org/board.htm>

Congregation Dorshei Tzedek
60 Highland Street
West Newton, MA 02465

Dorshei Tzedek Mission Statement

Dorshei Tzedek is a Reconstructionist Congregation dedicated to creating a caring and inclusive community, and to enhancing Jewish practice and learning in the lives of our members. "Dorshei Tzedek" means "seekers of justice," and as our name implies, we are seekers: of meaningful spirituality, of serious Jewish learning, and of social justice.

Consistent with Reconstructionist philosophy, we are committed to seriously engaging with Jewish tradition, challenging that tradition, where need be, and building on the tradition in creative ways. We do this in order to enhance our own lives as contemporary Jews and to perpetuate our bond—and our children's bond—to our heritage. We view education for ourselves and our children as fundamental to Jewish life.

We are a participatory congregation, encouraging all of our members to take an active role in some aspect of our congregational life. Our rabbi is our partner in this endeavor, and is both teacher and participant in our community. We value diversity in our congregation, and welcome all those who share our commitments.

Finally, we affirm the concept of mitzvah as obligation, acting on our Jewish values through deeds of *tzedek* (social justice) and *gemilut chasadim* (loving kindness), both within our congregation and in the larger community.